



TOWN OF STONINGTON

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES

RECREATION DIVISION

Richard Ward, Recreation Administrator

February 3, 2023

To: Connecticut General Assembly
ATT: Committee on Children Written Testimony Submission
State Capitol | Hartford, CT 06106-1562

RE: HB-6574

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing feedback and testimony on this subject. I have also contacted Representative Greg Howard by phone to express my opposition to this bill as it currently reads. HB-6574 would impose significant costs and staffing requirements on Town run programs, which are intended to be affordable options for parents seeking summer time opportunities for their children.

Examples:

1. Increased staffing needs at the administrative level to manage/document/oversee such changes.
2. Increased costs for nursing and physician consultants and the added burden to require such coverage from a profession that is already short-staffed and taxed with the current work load.
3. Increased costs on the required OEC background checks from a <\$15 fee that we currently pay to \$88.25+ per staff member. The bill speaks to the possibility of requiring additional fingerprinting in some cases at an even higher cost.
4. Increased staffing needs requiring an on-site Director of First Aid who must be 21 years of age (and cannot be the Program Director) - or you are required have an RN onsite at all times and for each site.

The increased costs for above (along with many others as a result of the bill) would be passed directly onto families in the form of higher program registration fees; or, in our case, serious consideration would be given to cancelling the program as it currently stands.

We are extremely proud of the SAFE / ORGANIZED / WELL RUN program that the Recreation Division of Stonington Human Services has managed every summer for the past 20+ years. The residents of Stonington know exactly what the program is about and the services that we provide. Parents with school-aged children seek us out and support the program AS IS. They are also VERY FORTUNATE to have choices between our program and several LICENSED programs that currently exist in the area. HB-6574 (as well intended as it might be) would be a disservice for our residents and drastically cut into summertime opportunities that are otherwise afforded and provided for our children.

Thank you for the consideration - and continued support! I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Sincerely,


Richard Ward
Recreation Administrator

CC: Danielle Chesebrough, 1st Selectman, Town of Stonington
Heather Somers, State Senator, 18th District
Greg Howard, State Representative, 43rd District
Leanne Theodore, Director, Stonington Human Services
Valerie Stolfi Collins, Executive Director, CT Recreation & Parks Association